

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

Recent ordination lists in the Church of England show that of 517 candidates for holy orders, 291 were Oxford or Cambridge graduates. This number (56 per cent of the whole) was equally divided between the two universities. Only four were from the "godless university" of London.

The Compulsory Education bill recently drawn up by the Belgian Minister of Public Instruction requires all parents to provide primary instruction for the children under their care from the age of six to twelve years, or, where local circumstances make it desirable, from seven to thirteen. No child under twelve years of age shall be regularly employed in mines, manufactures or workshops; but remissions may be granted by the communal authorities for children whose parents may require their assistance to work in the fields during the months of July to October, but not for more than two months, exclusive of the holidays. Illness or infirmities, destitution as long as it is not relieved, or the want of a school within a convenient distance, shall be considered legitimate excuses for not attending school. Where children who cannot allege either of these impediments keep away from school, means of persuasion shall be employed by the School Commission, and if these prove unavailing, the parents shall be called before the Juge de Paix, and should his exhortations not be attended to, he is liable to a fine of 25 to 50 francs for each such child, doubled on repetition of the offense, and if it be continued the fine may be renewed every three months. Fines, absence from school, to the extent of ten days in the course of the month, shall be assimilated to non-attendance and render the parents liable to the same punishment.

One of the new branches in the curriculum of Lowell Seminary for next year is photography, taught practically by one of the best reporters of Boston; another is military drill, it being believed that nothing is quite so effective in securing an erect and graceful carriage.

Iowa College, at Grinnell, Iowa, which was wrecked by a cyclone last year, is rapidly being rebuilt. The new buildings will be much superior to the old, and will comprise various new features, such as a Ladies' Hall and an Astronomical Observatory.

Says *The State Register*: "The new apparatus in physics and chemistry is already very superior, and is being made complete. The various scientific departments will be housed conveniently accommodated in the new Blair Scientific Hall, with abundant room for future enlargement. The library is already removed to the new East College, or 'Alumni Hall,' and with the Piedmont and Hyde purchases, will exceed 10,000 volumes at the opening of the fall term. The Iowa Conservatory of Music has a whole story in 'Alumni Hall' for the new West College, and will be added to the building when the new building is completed."

Considerable attention is being paid just now in England to the system of "cranning" that is there, as here, too prevalent. The *London Times* thinks the "cranner" is the natural product of the competitive examination system, which is the more to blame. "The matter becomes more serious" it says, "if it can be shown that this system of competitive examination exerts a really bad effect, not only on young men during a few weeks, or it may be a fortnight—of their career, but on the general education of the country. A generation or two ago, before the public services were thrown open to the man who could gain the most marks, and before the Universities had given themselves wholly over to examinations, public-school education had many faults, but at least it was free from the vice of cranning. A boy learned things which may not have been directly useful, which may have had no direct relation to his future, but which, on account of the system, he was obliged to learn, or get an appointment; but all the more so were they a training to his mind. They taught him to remember, to think, and, in the case of the best boys, to love literature or to value abstract knowledge. It may be inevitable, but it is at least lamentable that this ideal of education should be losing ground under the pressure of competition."

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